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THE
Flat Hat Club
AND THE
Phi Beta Kappa Society

EDITED BY
GEORGE P. COLEMAN



Class LJ75

Book P29W45

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Cynthia Deberley Tucker Coleman Memorial Series
Number One

THE
FLAT HAT CLUB
AND THE
PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY

SOME NEW LIGHT
ON THEIR HISTORY

EDITED BY
GEORGE P. COLEMAN

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PRIVATELY PRINTED
FOR
GEORGE P. COLEMAN,
OF
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA.



FOREWORD.



IN going through the letters and manuscripts of St. George Tucker, which form part of the collection of his grand-daughter, Mrs. Cynthia B. T. Coleman, I came across a little memorandum book kept by him, when he was a student at William and Mary College. In this book I discovered the formal "testimony of friendship of the society," or, as it might be called, the certificate of membership in the society. In a second memorandum book I found a catalog of the books which the Reverend Mr. Gwatkin suggested should be purchased for the Club library. Later I found letters of Thomas Jefferson, and of Thomas McAuley, relative to the early history of the Phi Beta Kappa. It is with the hope that some additional light may be thrown upon the history of college fraternities in the United States, that I present this material in the present form.

G. P. COLEMAN.

WILLIAMSBURG, VA.,
October, 1916.

(FACSIMILE OF SEAL)



Flat Hat Club
Williamsburg Virginia

(From photograph presented by Dr. L. G. TYLER)

(FACSIMILE OF CERTIFICATE)

Præs: Societ: de F. H. C.
Societate

Nul: per: p. Q. v. quæ hoc map: spect: est
Juvent: edisci: colere Virt: ac invig:
Stud: ut alig: sit grande Deus, Colum:
Q. rer: Univers: et sing: quor: hoc
nosre int: J. P. D.

Ut merit: præmia ill: nunq:
deesse viderent: qui se modesto ac
sobr: (ut Juv: dec:) gessere, qui se
bene morat: Dei obstant: ac Doct:
amic: præbure. Pro: Baylor, Juv: probo
Ind: qui licet nob: p. p. mens: Trist:
interf: si tam: omn: Hon: dign: prædita
hoc Test: nost: soci: Am: tradimus. Ut
felix laus: q. sit, ac Virt: ipso: sibi pret:
semp: col: p. v. t: Deu: for opt: map:
comprecam: In Test: Fid: Tabell:
hasce com: Societ: sig: et Chyrogr: nost:
munind: curavimus, apud Coll:
Gul: et Mar: Virg: An: Chr: MDCCCLXXII
Die vero Jul: mens: oct:

(CERTIFICATE OF FELLOWSHIP.)

Præses Sociique de F(lat) H(at) Societate

Nulla præterire (or prætermittere) aventes quæ hoc maxime spectent ut iuventus ediscat colere virtutem ac invigorent studia, ut aliquando sit grande decus columenque rerum universarum et singularum (eis) quorum hæc nosse intersit,

Salutem Plurimam Dant.

Ut merita præmia illis nunquam deesse viderentur, qui sese modeste ac sobrie (ut iuventutem decet) gessere, qui sese bene moratos, Dei observantes, ac doctos amicos præbuere,

Roberto Baylor,

iuveni probæ indolis qui, licet nobis paucos per menses fratribus interfuit, se tamen omnibus honoribus dignum præstiterat, hoc testimonium nostræ societatis amicitiae tradimus. Ut felix faustumque sit, ac virtutem ipsam sibi pretiosam semper colere perstet, Deum ter optimum maximum comprecamur.

In testimonium fidei tabellarias hasce, commune societatis sigillum, et chyrographos nostros muniendos curavimus, apud

COLLEGIUM GULIELMI ET MARIE,

Anno Christi MDCCLXXI, Die vero Iulii Mensis Octavo.

(TRANSLATION OF CERTIFICATE.)

The President and Members of the
F(lat) H(at) Society,

Eagerly desiring to let nothing pass that may look to this (end) especially, Viz., that the youth may learn thoroughly to cultivate virtue, and that studies may grow strong, that eventually it (the youth) may be a great ornament and pillar of things general and particular, to those whose interest it may be to know these things, send heartiest greeting. In order that due rewards might not seem to be lacking to those who have borne themselves modestly and soberly (as becometh the youth) who have shown themselves well mannered, God-fearing, and cultured friends, to

Robert Baylor,

a youth of upright character, who, though he has been among us his brothers only a few months, and yet has shown himself worthy of all honors, this testimony of the friendship of our society we deliver. That it may be happy and fortunate, and that he may continue ever to cultivate virtue herself precious to him, we beseech God, thrice good and great.

In testimony of our good faith, these letters, the common seal of the society, and our hands, we have had set hereto, at

THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY,
in the year of Christ 1771, on this the eighth day of the month July.

(Translation by DR. W. A. MONTGOMERY)

Letters

(Letter from THOMAS JEFFERSON to JOHN D. TAYLOR.)

SIR :

The honor of your letter of Jan. 30. is just now received, and I wish it were in my power to answer it's enquiries, but I am an entire stranger to the P B K. society, it's history and it's objects, it's existence is known to me by hear-say only. The contrary supposition has probably been founded on an F. H. C. society which existed at Wm & Mary college, when I was there, of which I was a member, that was confined to the Alumni of that institution.

I do not know, Sir, whether I can yet congratulate you on the prospect of a restoration of the right of self-government to the transatlantic nations and on the consoling reflection that this is our work. it had for some time a flattering appearance, but the Northern bears seem bristling up to maintain the empire of force. we may still however hope that the hosts on which they rely, may catch the disease they are employed to cure, and carry liberty to the North instead of suppressing it in the South. to my prayers for the attainment of that blessing there & it's preservation here, I add the tender to yourself of my high consideration and esteem.

TH. JEFFERSON.

TAYLOR JOHN D. Sp. H. of R. Md.

(Letter from THOMAS MCAULEY to THOMAS JEFFERSON.)

UNION COLLEGE } *19th May 1819*
New York State }

MOST EXCELLENT SIR

The Brethren of the New York Alpha of the Phi Beta Kappa Society have directed me to request of Your Excellency the communication of any information you may be in possession of, in relation to the Introduction of said Society into this country, as it has been told to the Society, that you first brought the charter from Oxford or Elsewhere to William & Mary College in 1776 or thereabouts, as it is natural for the children to enquire into the pedigree &c of their parents we Trust Sir you will pardon the Liberty we take, in thus approaching their reputed patron with the Language of enquiry—permit me to say that there are now 4 Alphas, that of Mafs — Con — New Haven & New York—

Connecticut has . .	627 members
Mafs.	489
N. H.	421
N. Y.	<u>155</u>
	1692

We trust the Society has a very healthfull influence on the minds of youth—and will be salu-

tary to the community — We will thankfully receive any communication on this subject —

And while I am before you Sir permit me to enquire whether in your philosophic recreations you have observed that Electricity passed along a wire of one or more miles in length becomes a deep orange colour, is diminished in its apparent Volume, But Exceedingly increased in its intensity and influence on the nervous system? in my course of Experiment last season I am fully satisfied of these facts, but am yet unable to account for them and would most willingly be instructed.

I am Sir with the profoundest respect for your many public & private virtues & Elevated Standing in the republic of letters,

Your very Humble

Servant THOMAS MCAULEY,

Cor. Sec. of New York A. A

His Excellency THOMAS JEFFERSON —

(Letter from THOMAS JEFFERSON to THOMAS MCAULEY.)

MONTICELLO *June 14, 19.*

SIR :

Your favor of May 19 has been received, but of the subject it respects I know nothing. I have heard of the Alpha Phi Beta and Kappa society, but never understood either its location or object. When I was a student of Wm. & Mary college of this state there existed a society called the F. H. C. society, confined to the number of six students only, of which I was a member, but it had no useful object, nor do I know whether it now exists. Accept my salutations and assurances of respect.

TH. JEFFERSON.

Mr. THOMAS MCAULEY.

Catalogue of Books Suggested for
the F. H. C.



THE FOLLOWING CATALOGUE OF BOOKS
WAS MADE OUT BY THE REVEREND
MR. GWATKIN AT THE REQUEST OF
THE MEMBERS OF THE F: H: C: AS
BEING THE MOST USEFUL AND VALU-
ABLE BOOKS WITH WHICH IT WOULD
BE PROPER TO BEGIN THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF A LIBRARY.—N: B. THOSE
MARK'D (2) IN MARGIN HAVE BEEN
SENT FOR.

MORAL PHILOSOPHY AND CIVIL LAW.

FOLIO.

Puffendorf on the Law of nature and nations with
Barberac's notes.

Hobbes Leviathan.

QUARTO.

2 Hutcheson's Elements &c of Mor: Phil: 2: v.

2 Woolaston's Rel: of Nat: delineated.

Taylor's Elements of Civil Law.
 Cumberland's Law of Nature with notes by Maxwell.
 Harris's Justinian.
 Vinnii Comment: in Instit: Imperiales.
 Nood's Comment: in Justin: Pandectas.
 Cujarii in Libros Elementares Iuris Justiniani.
 Le Droit de la Nature &c pr. Vattel.

OCTAVO.

- 2 King's Origin of Evil with Law's Notes.
- 2 Doct: Samuel Clarke on the Attributes.
 Grotius de Jure Belli et Pacis (2 Vols.)
 The whole controversy between Grove, Bays and
 Balguy concerning the Foundation of Morals, in
 one Vol.
- Butler's Sermons preach'd at the Rolls.
- Bever's Introduction to the Civil Law.
- Succincta Commentatio ad Institut. Justinianias,
 Happio Auctore.

DUODECIMO.

- Puffendorf de Off: Hom: et Civis.
- Ld Kaim's Elem: of Moral Philosophy.
- 2 Prices Review of Difficulties in Morals.

MATHEMATICS, NATURAL PHILOSOPHY
AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Appollonii Pergæi Conica Cura Haliei.

Halley's Tables.

Gardner's Logarithms.

QUARTO.

Newton's Principia Com. per Le Seur et Jacquier.

Emerson's Mechanics.

Sectiones Conicæ Roberto Simpson.

Sectiones Conicæ, Hugone Hamilton.

Pemberton's View of Sir Isaac Newton's Philosophy.

Maclaurins Do.

Geometria Organica Maclaurins.

Newton's Optics.

Newton's Opticæ Lectiones.

Smith's Optics (2 Vol.)

Maclaurin's Fluxions.

Franklin's Letters &c.

Priestley's Hist: of Electricity.

Priestley's Introduction to Do.

Priestley's Hist: of Light and Colours.

Gravesand's Experimental Philosophy.

Ferguson's Lectures.

2 Ferguson's Astronomy.

Del'Cailles Astronomy.

Gregory Do.

Keils Do.

OCTAVO.

Euclids Elements by Simpson.
Simpson's Algebra.
Simpson's Trigonometry.
Simpson's Essays.
Simpson's Dissertations.
Simpson's Tracts.
Simpson's Annuities.
Simpson's Laws of Chance.
Simpson's Fluxions.
De Moivres Laws of Chance.
De Moivres Miscellanea Anylitica.
Robin's Works (2 Vols.)
Rowning's Nat: Philosophy.
Pennant's British Zoology.
Crakelt's Trigonometry.

FOLIO.

Catesby's Nat: Hist: of Virginia.
Petiver's Works on Nat: History.
Blairs Geography and Maps.

QUARTO.

Buffons Historie Naturelle.
Op: Math: Hygenii (4 Vol.)
All D'Alembert's mathematical works in French.
Histoire des insects, pr. Geoffroy.
Elements d'Architecture Navale par Duhamel.

La physique des Arbres de l'Exploitation des Bois.

Chymical Dictionary.

Elements de Chymie par M'acquer.

Lectures on Chymistry by Pemberton.

Pennants Synopsis.

OCTAVO.

2 Varenius's Geography by Irwin.

Homes's Principles of Vegetation.

Elements d'Agriculture par Duhamel.

Cotes's Hydrostatical Lectures.

Hale's Vegetable Statics.

Weston's Introduction to Botany.

Milnes' Institutes of Botany.

HISTORY.

FOLIO.

- 2 Carters History of England.
- 2 Ld Clarendon's History of Y^e Civil Wars.
Whitlocks Memoirs.
Burnets Hist: of the Reformation.
Father Pauls Hist: of the Council of Trent.
Mariana's Hist: of Spain.
- 2 Northern Anti: transl: from Mallet's Introd: to the
Hist: of Denmark.

QUARTO.

- Humes Hist: of England.
- Mrs. Macauley's Hist of England.
- Dalrymples Memoirs.
- 2 Robertson's Hist: of Scotland.
- 2 Robertson's Charles 5th.
Walpoles Historic Doubts.
Middleton's Life of Cicero.
Mosheims Ecclesiastical History.

OCTAVO.

- Vertot's Revolutions.
- Henault's Histoire de France.
- All y^e Abridg: done in the manner of Henault.
- Voltaire's Histoire Universelle.
- Ld Littleton's Hist: of Henry 2d.

GOVERNMENT.

Locke on Government.

Sidney on Do.

Milton's Political Works.

Esprit de Loix.

TRADE.

Postlethwait's Dict.y of Commce.

Child and Davenant's Works on Trade.

Great Britain's true commercial interest.

Sir Jas. Stewart's Pol. Economy.

Locke on altering the Coin.

MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.

QUARTO.

Walpole's Acct. of the Painters Ct. in England.

Lord Bolingbroke's Works.

Arbuthnots Tables of Coins.

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Milton

Shakespeare

Spenser

Gray

Mason

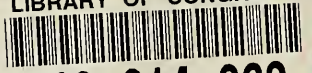
} Best Edits.

Hurd's Works.

Waller's Works and Life, Editn. printed for Davies
Cov. Garden.

Webb on Paintg.
Lord Kaim's El. of criticism.
Thomson's Works.
Shenstone's Do.
Harris's Hermes.
Locke's Essays on the Hum. Undrg.
Bishop Berkeley's Phil. Works.
Hume's Essays.
Sir Will Temple's Works.
Entretiens Sur Vies de peintures par Felibien.
Sterne's Works.
Melanges par M. D'Alembert.
Rousseau's Works.
Hart's Essays on Husbandry.
Richardson & Fielding's Novels.

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